

of the earth ought to be covered, ought to be healthy, ought to be included in our health care system. So you saw it differently. I understand that. You used your judgment.

I frankly think that the American people want us to do what we are trying to do. They want to make sure we do it right and don't undermine the security they now have. And that is our intent as well.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for those remarks.

I would ask the gentleman if we could turn, Mr. Speaker, to the question of jobs. As he indicated, that will be a focus of the next 4 weeks. The gentleman said earlier in this colloquy that we just participated in an historic event yesterday, that he in his career here has not seen an opportunity like that where both sides sat down with the President for 7 hours and the President spent the time on the issue of health care.

In that vein, in terms of trying to open up dialogue and discussion, it would be very appropriate, I believe, Mr. Speaker, for us to give equal or more time to the pressing issue of jobs in this economy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Leader BOEHNER and I have forwarded to the gentleman as well as Speaker PELOSI a letter indicating that we would like to have a bipartisan jobs summit akin to what we had yesterday with the President, but perhaps just in this body. The Speaker's press reports have indicated that the Speaker is willing to engage in such a jobs summit. And I would just like to ask the gentleman if he intends to respond to the Leader and my letter. And if not, certainly responding here is just as well as to perhaps a scheduled time for such a summit to occur.

Mr. HOYER. I think the same letter was sent to both of us, and I was yielding to the Speaker to respond. But I will respond here. I think that is a good idea.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for that. Does he have any sense of when we could expect the acceptance and the scheduling of such an event?

Mr. HOYER. Let me talk to the Speaker about it and see what schedule, and we will talk to you about it. But I think certainly jobs is an absolutely critical objective of ours this year, as you know, as it was last year.

The good news, as you know, is that CBO says that over a million jobs were created in the last quarter, or retained in the last quarter as a result of the Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As the gentleman also knows, in the last quarter, the last 3 months of the Bush administration, we lost on average per month 726,000 jobs. As the gentleman also knows, on average over the last 3 months we have lost 35,000 jobs. That is extraordinary. That is 5 percent of what we lost the last 3 months just a year ago. So that is progress. We are moving forward, but that is not success. Success will be, as you and I both know, when we are adding jobs, when we are creating jobs.

Unfortunately, over the last 8 years we have had the lowest job production in this country than we have had since Herbert Hoover. As a result, we are very much down in terms of supply of jobs for people who are out of jobs and need jobs to support themselves and their family.

I want to also say, I want to thank the gentleman and his colleagues on his side of the aisle for their positive participation yesterday, positive in the sense that yes, we didn't agree, but nobody expected there to be agreement down there, that everybody was all of a sudden going to change their perspective of how you get to where we all want to get. But I thought the American people, as I said, had an opportunity to see some serious people who had differences of opinion discuss them in a civil and, I thought, productive manner. I think that is a good civics opportunity for the American people.

Very frankly, we ought to do more of that. Because, unfortunately, all too often they see us on the floor not on the uncontentious, which we do pretty much working together, but they see us on the contentious, where tempers can get pretty hot, and the American public draws the inference that that's all we do. They don't like it, and I don't blame them. I know you and I don't like it either.

I want to thank you and your colleagues for your participation.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for that.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I look forward, along with the Leader and the rest of my colleagues, to begin working with the gentleman and the majority to start on an earnest attempt to create an environment for job creation so that people in this country can get back to work.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KRATOVIL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland? There was no objection.

#### WE MUST PASS A JOBS BILL

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I think it is important to note the change in the economy as we move forward. But the challenge to us as Members of Congress, even as we reflect on the enormous impact the investment dollars have had, last year in January of 2009 we had lost 779,000 jobs. In January of 2010, only 22,000 jobs were lost and the

economy is percolating. But 22,000 is unacceptable.

So we must pass a jobs bill now. But we must also be concerned not only for the recently unemployed, for the white collar workers, but we have to be concerned about the young workers, 18 to 30. We have to be concerned about the chronically unemployed, or the ex-felon who has paid his or her dues, has a family, and other than getting work, they would be dependent on a government handout. They don't want that.

So when we talk about jobs, we have to worry about seniors, and working families, and people who have been unemployed for a long period of time. We have got to put a job in their hand. And that is what I want to do, work to get jobs for the American people and the 18th Congressional District.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE NEED FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, besides the question and the need for jobs, I think it is important for America and for my colleagues to know that the meeting yesterday at the White House at Blair House was a vitally important meeting. I know that many Americans were able to see it in its purity, meaning that you were able to watch it live.

The President intended that we have the opportunity to hear real discussion. And I would beg to differ whether this was an opportunity for just show